

The National Library of Canada

presents

VIDEODISC

Canad'a

A USER'S GUIDE TO THE TECHNOLOGY
The visible parts of a videodisc system consist of a turntable and a video scree. Much in the manner of a phonograph stylus, a laser beam passes over the disc, picks up impulses imbedded in the surface, and transfers them to the screen and to the speakers, where they are perceived as pictures and sound.

The National Library system uses a disc that resembles a phonograph record in size and shape. Because light cannot pass through it, as is possible in some systems, it is called a reflective optical disc. Unlike translucent discs (transmissive optical discs), it is stiff, and it requires no special storage conditions.

Two factors contribute to the durability of the disc. First, it is unaffected by normal environmental conditions; second, because the laser does not scrape like a stylus, the disc does not deteriorate with repeated use.

Each side of the disc contains 54 000 frames of information. With the disc spinning at its normal speed of 1800 revolutions per minute, the laser is capable of scanning thirty frames per second, one for each revolution. At this rate, playback time is 27 minutes on each side.

But playback speed may also be varied or stopped altogether, and direction may be reversed. These features are especially related when the disc contains a number of still pictures, like book pages or calalogue cards, which the user might wish to examine one frame at a time. This "freeze frame" capability allows the user to manipulsed the machine like a microfiche reader and to proceed at his own speed. Retrieval time for any given frame is never more than five seconds.

When the system is used in conjunction with a computer, selection of frames may be preprogrammed, and frames may be searched either sequentially or at random. With such pre-programming, the manning that the selection of the present selection is a title, or keywork; or according to any other order.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY VIDEODISC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT The major objectives of the National Library Videodisc Demonstration Project were to demonstrate:

1) the ability of the videodisc to store and present library materials in a variety of lormats;
2) the use of videodisc as a practical research tool for Canadian studies, and the videodisc are applicable of the information retrieval capability of a combined videodisc-microcomputer system.

The product is a disc that, used in conjunction with a television, can demonstrate some of the advantages and drawbacks of videodisc for library applications.

There are four productions on the National Library videodisc. Side One contains two public relations materials, a 16 mm film, Canada's National Library, and a 35 mm side show, Canadiana. These media would seem to present lew problems, but each original was in reality two separate productions, with English and French versions — and, in the case of the slide show, they were of different lengths.

Side Two contains (wo productions which had to be specifically created for the disc: The History of "O Canada," designed to show how videodisc can be used for research, and A Walk Through the National Library, a public relations tool aimed primarily at librarians, showing services offered to users.

The History of "O Canada" contains photographs, both in black and white and in colour music scores manuscripts, neverpage clippings, and official publications receipts shorted properties to the properties of th

The National Library uses the following equipment in this project
1) A Disco Vision videodisc player, model PR7820-2
2) A Sony, 18" colour monitor
3) A Marantz amplifier
4) Two EH speakers
5) An Apple II Plus (RBX) microprocessor
6) Two Apple II disc drives from extra storage
7) An NEC monitor with a given sorem
8) An Espon printer Model MX-100 for computer hard copy.

VIDEODISC AND THE CANADIAN LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE Many of the benefits of videodisc have already been mentioned in passing, but the full potential of this technology is unknown. Some of its features can be of obvious benefit to libraries. A single videodisc can hold 55 cm of shelf space of books. With adequate indexing, all information on that disc can be retrieved within seconds. And the disc is far more durable than paper.

Other aspects of videodisc are particularly suited to the needs of libraries in Canada. The disc contains two audio tracks, it is capable of carrying simultaneous (and separable) bilingual dialegue or commentary. The same picture can thus be presented for listeners in either English or French. The program content can provide information about libraries, such as events, exhibits, and developments in programs. It can even include the collections themselves.

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La Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

vous présente

LE VIDÉODISQUE

Canada'

La Bibliothèque nationale du Canada (ravaille à l'exploitation d'une technique facile à utiliser, qui peut aider les bibliothècaires à trouver des solutions à trois de leurs précocupations majeures: le manque d'espace d'entreposage, la détérioration des collections et l'acces aux documents.

PROJET DE DÉMONSTRATION SUR-VIDÉODISQUE DE LA BIBLIOTHÉQUE NATIONALE LES principaux objectifs du Projet de démonstration sur vidéodisque de la Bibliothèque nationale sont les suivants:

1) démontre le potentiel des vidéodisques pour entreposer et présenter le matériel de bibliothèque dans divers formats.

2) démontrer l'utilité des vidéodisques comme outils de recherche praiques pour les études canadiennes et .

3) démontrer la capacité de recherche des données par un système de vidéodisque articulé par micro-ordinateur.

Pour son projet, la Bibliothèque nationale utilise requipement ururant.

1) un videographe Disco Vision PR7820-2

2) un écran couleur de 18" Sony

3) un amplificateur Marantz

4) deux haut-pardeurs EPI

5) un microprocesseur Apple II Plus (48K)

6) deux unités de disque Apple II pour stokage supplémentaire

7) un moniteur NEC à lond vert

8) une imprimante Epson modèle MX-100 qui fournit des copies
d'ordinateur sur papier.

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